

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ABU DH 00017 090516Z

15

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SY-10 IO-14 USSS-00 FAA-00

DOT-00 EB-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AF-10 DRC-01 /161 W
----- 048348

P R 090400Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1209

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0017

MONTREAL FOR ICAO

EO 11652: ADS DECLASS 1/2/84

TAGS: PINS, TC, NL, US

SUBJ: TERRORISM: KLM HIJACKERS

REF: STATE 000370 (NOTAL)

1. DURING 'ID AL-ADHA CALLS JAN 3 MADE DEMARCHE ALONG LINES
PARA 2 AND 3 REFTEL SEPERATELY TO FOR MIN SUWAIDI AND NEW DEPUTY PRIM
E

MIN OF UAE, SHAIKH KHALIFA BIN ZAYID, WHO IS ALSO CROWN PRINCE OF
ABU DHABI. ALSO INFORMED BOTH OFFICIALS THAT I SPEAKING ON SAME
SUBJECT TO OTHERS AND WOULD BE PLEASED HAVE UAE VIEWS SOONEST.
BOTH SUWAIDI AND SHAIKH KHALIFA HEARD ME OUT COURTEOUSLY AND TOOK
IDENTICAL LINE, NAMELY THAT IT THEIR UNDERSTANDING THREE KLM
HIJACKERS HAD BEEN HANDED OVER BY DUBAI AUTHORITIES TO UAE MINY
INTERIOR IN ABU DHABI. BOTH DISCLAIMED UP TO DATE KNOWLEDGE OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ABU DH 00017 090516Z

DISPOSITION OF CASE, BUT STATED THEY THOUGHT TERRORISTS STILL BEING

HELD BY MINISTRY IN ABU DHABI. SUWAIDI PROMISED GIVE ME STATUS REPORT AND COMMENT ON OUR SUGGESTIONS RE ALTERNATIVES FOR BRINGING MEN TO JUSTICE.

2. WITH ELAPSE FOUR DAYS AND NO WORD EITHER FROM SUWAIDI OR SHAIKH KHALIFA, I DECIDED RAISE MATTER WITH MINISTER OF STATE FOR INTERIOR AFFAIRS, COL HAMMOUDA BIN ALI, WHO AS NUMBER TWO MAN IN UAE MINY INT IS ONE OF MOST CAPABLE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE OFFICIALS IN ENTIRE GOVT. CALLED ON HAMMOUDA EVENING JAN 7 AND REVIEWED FOR HIM MY EARLIER DEMARCHES. HAMMOUDA ACTED ASTONISHED THAT I HAD BEEN LED TO BELIEVE TERRORISTS STILL IN UAE. HE CONFIRMED THEY BROUGHT TO ABU DHABI SHORTLY AFTER SURRENDERING AND WERE HELD FOR WEEK OR TEN DAYS, DURING WHICH APPARENTLY NO RPT NO INTERR-OGATION TOOK PLACE. DURING PERIOD THEY WERE IN ABU DHABI, HAMMOUDA SAID UAE PRIMIN SHAIKH MAKHTUM BIN RASHID, WHO CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH HIJACKERS FROM DUBAI AIRPORT TOWER, MADE FREQUENT INQUIRIES AS TO WHY THEY WERE STILL BEING HELD SINCE HE FELT DUTY-BOUND TO HONOR WORD HE HAD GIVEN TERRORISTS THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR RELEASING PLANE AND CREW, THEY WOULD BE ALLOWED LEAVE COUNTRY. AFTER SOME FURTHER DISCUSSION BETWEEN SHAIKH MAKHTUM, SUWAIDI AND UAE PRES SHAIKH ZAYID, DECISION WAS TAKEN TO CONTACT PLO REP HERE, IBRAHIM ZARAD, TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR SAFE CONDUCT OUT OF COUNTRY. HAMMOUDA SAID EGYPT WAS INITIALLY SUGGESTED AS HAVEN, BUT AFTER TERRORISTS THEMSELVES OBJECTED, IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND THEM BY A SYRIAN AIRLINES PLANE TO SYRIA. ACCORDING HAMMOUDA, WHO DID NOT SEE MEN PERSONALLY, IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THEY DEPARTED ABU DHABI ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO. HE PROMISED CHECK EXACT DATE AND LET US KNOW. IN REPLY MY QUESTION RE THEIR NATIONALITY, HAMMOUDA SAID HE UNDERSTOOD ALL WERE PALESTINIANS, ALTHOUGH FROM RESIDENCE IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES THEY MAY HAVE HAD TRACES OF OTHER ARAB ACCENTS. HE SAID THEY HAD NO PASSPORTS WHEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. WE ALSO TRYING TO DETERMINE FROM MINY INT WHETHER GROUP MAY HAVE BEEN ISSUED NEW PPTS BEFORE GOING TO SYRIA.

3. COMMENT: A. AM VERY DISMAYED THAT SUWAIDI ESPECIALLY WOULD HAVE LED ME TO BELIEVE MEN STILL BEING HELD BY UAE ALTHOUGH I DID NOT EXPECT HIM BE BACK TO ME ON SUBJECT AS PROMISED. AM SEEING FORMIN LATER THIS WEEK AND INTEND TO ASK HIM FOR SOME
CONFIDENTIAL
CON*IDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ABU DH 00017 090516Z

EXPLANATION.

B. IN COURSE CONVERSATION WITH HAMMOUDA, WHO INCIDENTLY MOST UNDERSTANDING OUR INTEREST IN DISPOSITION OF CASE AND AGREED ALL SUCH TERRORISTS MUST BE TREATED AS CRIMINALS, HE REMARKED THAT HAD USG EXPRESSED INTEREST IN CASE INITIALLY, UAE MIGHT HAVE BEEN PERSUADED INVESTIGATE MATTER MORE THOROUGHLY, POSSIBLY TURNING THEM OVER TO PLO FOR TRIAL.

4. SUBSEQUENT TO DRAFTING ABOVE, MINYINT INFORMED EMBASSY THAT HIJACKERS LEFT FOR SYRIA DEC 18. MINY OFFICIAL SAID HE DID NOT THINK THEY IN POSSESSION ANY PASSPORTS--UAE CERTAINLY DID NOT ISSUE PASSPORTS, BUT THEY WERE GIVEN WRITTEN PERMISSION TO TRAVEL. GRIFFIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, PARAMILITARY FORCES, AIRLINES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABUDH00017
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: AS S 1/2/84
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740155/aaaabzjp.tel
Line Count: 120
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: STATE 000370 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <19 DEC 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TERRORISM: KLM HIJACKERS
TAGS: PINS, TC, NL, US, KLM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005